



NGC News

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Counterfeit Detection: Another 1911-D Quarter Eagle

We received another altered 1911-D Quarter Eagle after last month's newsletter. Read about how this one differed from the one featured in November's article.

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USA Coin Album: Short and Sweet, Part Two

This month David continues his discussion of coins that were mass produced for just a short period of time.

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NumisMedia Market Report: Rare Coins Coming of Age

The year 2011 should go down in history as one of the most significant



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in numismatics.

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From the NGC Archives: 1879 Proof Goloid Pattern Dollar J-1626, P-1822

Dr. Wheeler W. Hubbell was the deviser of goloid, an alloy of gold, silver and copper which contained the first two metals in proportion to their market values at the time.

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World Coins: The Coinage of the White Rajahs of Sarawak: Part 3

Jay Turner continues his discussion of the coinage of Sarawak in the last of a multi-part series.

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The Year in Modern Coins, Looking Back at 2011

Scott Schechter reviews new discoveries and new issues of modern US coinage in 2011.

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Award-Winning Registry Collector Showcases Set Online

A combination of passion and obsession drove Barry Chappell to collect Proof Morgan Dollars. Now he shares his award-winning collection on his website.

[Read this article...](#)

The Franklin Mint Offers Exclusive September 11th Collectible

These limited-edition sets include an NGC-certified 9-11 Silver Proof Medal and a genuine out-of-issue "Heroes" first-class US postage stamp.

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NGC Announces New Services and Fees for 2012

Posted on 12/13/2011

2012 updates include expanded ReHolder, imaging services and more.

NGC has announced its revised services and fees schedule that will go into effect January 1, 2012. While a number of refinements are being introduced, changes that affect World coins, ReHolder services and Imaging services are most significant.

NGC has added to its World grading tiers an Unlimited High Value WalkThrough for coins of unlimited value and capped the value limit of the High Value WalkThrough tier at \$500,000. Additionally, NGC has added a World Modern Special tier for regular issue coins struck after 1970 requiring a special label including Releases designations.

ReHolder services have been refined by adding a High Value ReHolder level for coins valued over \$10,000. NGC will continue to encapsulate coins submitted for ReHolder (coins valued at \$10,000 or less) and High Value ReHolder using the Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder. Two additional ReHolder service levels include an Oversize ReHolder for oversize coins (over 45mm in diameter) valued at \$10,000 or less and an High Value Oversize ReHolder for coins valued over \$10,000.

NGC's Imaging Services have been updated to include High Resolution (print quality) 300 dpi images on a CD returned with the coin(s). The new Photo Vision product includes a laminated photo document with high-quality enlarged images of the coin's obverse and reverse and label information and the high resolution images provided on a CD.

Submitters can, at their request, select Return Packaging (Ex. Mint capsules, Certificates of Authenticity and Mint boxes) for \$3 per invoice plus shipping. These

items will be returned immediately; not with the graded coins.

Discounted submission rates are available to NGC Authorized Dealers and Elite-level members of the NGC Collectors Society.

US Coins

Turnaround times are approximate and not guaranteed. Estimated turnaround begins on the day coins are received at NGC.

| Grading Tier | Fee (per coin) | Turnaround (Est.) | Requirements |
|--|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Unlimited Value WalkThrough | \$600 | Same-day service | All U.S. coins. No max value. |
| High Value WalkThrough | \$250 | Same-day service | All U.S. coins valued at \$500,000 or less. |
| WalkThrough Express | \$125 | Same-day service | U.S. coins valued at \$100,000 or less. |
| | \$60 | 48 hours | U.S. coins valued at \$10,000 or less. |
| ↑ All tiers above include Scratch-Resistant Holders for no additional fee. ↑ | | | |
| ↓ Scratch-Resistant Holders are available for tiers below for an additional \$5.00/coin. ↓ | | | |
| Early Bird | \$30 | 12 working days | U.S. coins valued at \$3,000 or less. All California fractional, \$1 gold, \$2.5 gold, \$3 gold, \$5 Indians, and all better-date US gold. Maximum value \$3,000 per coin. Five (5) coin minimum |
| Specialty Gold | \$30 | 5 working days | All dates for \$5-\$10-\$20 Liberty; \$10 Indian, \$20 Saint Gaudens. Also accepting \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 U.S. gold bullion. Maximum value \$3,000. Five (5) coin minimum |
| GoldRush | \$25 | 5 working days | All non-gold U.S. coins valued under \$300, and \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 U.S. gold bullion under \$300 per coin (no Colonials). Five (5) coin minimum |
| Economy | \$17 | 21 working days | All U.S. coins 1955 to present. Five (5) coin minimum. 5-coin minimum waived for America The Beautiful 5 oz. quarters. |
| Modern | \$14 | 12 working days | All U.S. coins 1955 to present requiring a special label, including Releases designations and Eagle 20th and 25th Anniversaries. Five (5) coin minimum. 5-coin minimum waived for America The Beautiful 5 oz. quarters. |
| Modern Special | \$20 | 12 working days | |

World Coins

| Grading Tier | Fee (per coin) | Turnaround (Est.) | Requirements |
|---|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| Unlimited High Value WalkThrough | \$600 | A.S.A.P. (usually same day)* | All World coins. Unlimited value. |
| High Value WalkThrough | \$250 | A.S.A.P. (usually same day)* | All World coins. Maximum value \$500,000. |
| WalkThrough | \$125 | A.S.A.P. (usually same day)* | All World coins. Maximum value \$50,000. |
| Express | \$60 | 48 hours* | All World coins valued at \$10,000 or less. |
| Standard | \$35 | 10 working days* | All World coins valued at \$3,000 or less each. |
| Gold | \$30 | 5 working days* | All World gold. Maximum value \$3,000. Five (5) coin minimum. |

*Occasionally there may be a delay as extra research is required on more esoteric items.

↓ All tiers above include Scratch-Resistant Holders for no additional fee. ↓

↓ Scratch-Resistant Holders are available for tiers below for an additional \$5.00/coin. ↓

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Value | \$19 | 21 working days | All World coins valued at \$300 or less. Five (5) coin minimum. |
| World Modern | \$16.50 | 10 working days | Regular-issue coins struck after 1970 up to \$2,000 in value. No patterns, die trials, etc. Five (5) coin minimum. |
| World Modern Special | \$23 | 10 working days | Regular-issue coins struck after 1970 up to \$2,000 in value requiring a special label including Releases designations. Five (5) coin minimum. |

COINS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Certain coins valued under \$3,000 that require additional research for authentication are **NOT** eligible for World Standard, Gold and Value tiers. **Submit the following coins using World Express tier:** RUSSIA, gold and silver coins, dated 1839 and before; RUSSIA, platinum coins, dated 1845 and before; CHINA, gold and silver coins, dated 1932 and before. **ADDITIONAL TURNAROUND TIME MAY APPLY.**

Ancient Coins

| Grading Tier | Fee (per coin) | Turnaround (Est.) | Requirements |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Bulk | \$25 | 20 working days | Ancient coins. Maximum value \$1,500. 50-coin minimum |
| Bulk | \$35 | 20 working days | Ancient coins requiring double-thick holders. Maximum value \$1,500. |
| Standard | \$35 | 20 working days | Ancient coins. Maximum value \$3,000. |
| Express | \$75 | 5 working days | Ancient coins. Maximum value \$10,000. |
| Rarities | \$150 | 5 working days | Ancient coins valued between \$10,000-\$50,000. |
| Ultra Rarities | \$300 | 5 working days | Ancient coins valued over \$50,000. |

An \$8 handling fee per invoice applies to submissions for the above grading tiers. When none of these tiers are selected and coins are submitted for services only (described below), the handling fee is not applicable.

All of the grading tiers described here are covered by NGC's comprehensive guarantee of grade and authenticity. Any questions you may have about NGC's grading services can be answered by an NGC Customer Service Representative or an authorized member/dealer. These professionals can help you decide which tier or service offered by NGC best meets your needs.

Services for both US and World Coins

| Grading Service | Fee (per coin) | Turnaround (Est.) | Requirements |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| CrossOver | Tier price | According to tier chosen | CLICK FOR DETAILED SERVICE INFORMATION. PCGS-holdered coins are reviewed for NGC certification. Coins will be removed from their holders only if they can be graded at the same or higher than your specified minimum grade. Specify "ANY" as the minimum grade to have your coin crossed regardless of grade. Specify "DETAILS" to cross coins with detrimental surface conditions. NGC does not accept MS / PF 70 coins for CrossOver at the same grade. You may not request a higher minimum grade than is on the current holder. Non-PCGS-holdered coins must be removed from their holders and submitted raw. If you disagree with a grade assigned by |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| ReGrade | Tier price | According to tier chosen <i>Ex: ReGrade</i> | NGC you may submit the coin for review for a higher grade. Coin must be intact in its holder. Also, choose a grading tier according to coin value and desired turnaround. NGC examines Mint Errors and assigns a designation. Coins will be encapsulated at NGC's discretion. |
| Mint Error* | Tier price +\$12 | Tier + 5 working days | Choose a grading tier according to coin value and desired turnaround. Mint Error attribution fees apply when this service is requested - regardless of whether or not NGC determines your coin to be a recognized error coin. Upon request, NGC examines coins for recognized varieties and certifies with applicable designation. Choose a grading tier according to coin value and desired turnaround. VarietyPlus attribution fees apply when this service is requested - regardless of whether or not NGC determines your coin to be a recognized variety. See www.NGCcoin.com/VarietyPlus for a complete list of varieties we recognize. |
| VarietyPlus®* | Tier price + \$12 | Tier + 5 working days | |
| *VarietyPlus and Mint Error attribution fees apply when these services are requested – regardless of whether or not NGC determines your coin to be a recognized variety or error coin. | | | |
| Tokens & Medals | Tier price | According to tier chosen (Additional turnaround time may apply) | (World tokens must be submitted on World Coin Submission Form) For a complete list of Tokens and Medals we accept, please see Tokens and Medals Services . Variety attribution included. |
| Oversize Holder | Tier + \$20 | According to tier chosen | Coins over 45mm in diameter are placed in NGC Oversize Holder. Must be submitted on a separate submission form. |
| ReHolder | \$7.50 | 5 working days | Coins, valued at \$10,000 or less, in an NGC holder can be submitted for placement in a Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® holder . |
| High Value ReHolder | \$15 | 5 working days | Coins, valued over \$10,000, in an NGC holder can be submitted for placement in a Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® holder . |
| Oversize ReHolder | \$17.50 | 5 working days | Oversize coins (over 45 mm in diameter) valued at \$10,000 or less, in an NGC holder can be submitted for placement in a new holder. |
| High Value Oversize ReHolder | \$25 | 5 working days | Oversize coins (over 45 mm in diameter) valued at over \$10,000, in an NGC holder can be submitted for placement in a new holder. |
| Designation Review | \$12 | 5 working days | NGC certified coins you'd like reviewed for a particular designation or variety, such as "FB", "RB" or "★". There is no designation review service for "✦". Coins must be submitted for regrading. |
| NCS Crossover | \$5 | 5 working days | Coins encapsulated by NCS are NGC Details Graded. |
| Appearance Review | No Charge | 12 working days | A service for review of an NGC coin you believe is over-graded or unattractively toned in a way that makes it unmarketable. Upon request, NGC performs a composition surface scan. The weight and three most abundant non-trace metals are listed on the certification label. All pattern, essay, trial and mint error coins, tokens and medals. |
| Metallurgic Analysis | \$75 | 3 working days | Upon request, NGC will return Mint packaging (capsules, Certificates of Authenticity and Mint boxes). Packaging will be returned immediately (not with the graded coins). |
| Return Packaging | \$3/invoice | 1 working day | If chosen, NGC provides low resolution images for coins submitted under any of its grading and service tiers at \$5 per coin. Applies to all coins on the invoice. Accurate 72 dpi, JPEG image of the coin |
| Low Resolution Images | \$5/coin, applies to all on the invoice | Tier + 1 working day | |

High Resolution Images \$10/coin, applies to all on the invoice Tier + 1 working day

Photo Vision \$25 10-14 working days

PHOTO PROOF® Deluxe \$65 Duplicate \$15 Deluxe: 10-14 working days Duplicate: 5-7 working days

holder's obverse and reverse sent by email.
 If chosen, NGC provides high resolution images for coins submitted under any of its grading and service tiers at \$10 per coin. Applies to all coins on the invoice. Accurate 300 dpi, JPEG image of the coin holder's obverse and reverse on a CD returned with the coins.
 A laminated photo document, 5.5" x 8.5" with high-quality enlarged images of the coin's obverse and reverse and label information. Print quality (300 dpi) images of the coin(s) on a CD returned with coins.
 Coins you submit for NGC grading can also be digitally imaged and presented by NGC's PHOTO PROOF. PHOTO PROOF IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO NGC-CERTIFIED COINS.

NGC reserves the right to charge higher tier rates if a submitted item's value exceeds the maximum value allowed using the originally selected tier. This also includes instances where the value provided by the submitter is below the coin's fair market value.

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Coin Melt Values from NGC

Posted on 11/18/2011

Get up-to-the-minute melt values of US and World coins from NGC.

As the value of precious metals continues to make headlines, today's collectors keep a close eye on changes in the price of gold, silver, platinum and palladium. That's why we've introduced the [Coin Melt Values](#) research tool. Now you can track the price of bullion in real time, with new data every 15 minutes, and gain greater insight into a coin's overall value in the marketplace.



BARBER HALF DOLLAR (1892-1915)
Melt Value: \$11.57
 Last Updated: 11/18/2011 12:15 PM EST

This page shows trends for Barber Half Dollar melt values. A coin's numismatic value may be higher than its melt value. See pricing for U.S. Silver Coins in the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#).

Coin Specifications
 Category: Barber Half Dollar (1892-1915)
 Mark: Philadelphia
 Mintage: 514,000
 Obverse Designer: Charles E. Barber
 Reverse Designer: Charles E. Barber
 Composition: 90% Silver
 Weight: 12.5000g
 ASW: 0.3607oz
 Diameter: 30.5mm
 Edge: Reeded
 Numismatic specification data provided by [Coinbase Numismatic](#).

Melt Value Calculator
 Use the calculator below to determine the value of the silver in a quantity of coins.
 # of Coins x \$11.57

Historical Barber Half Dollar Melt Values

| Date | Melt Value (\$) |
|----------|-----------------|
| Oct 2010 | 9.50 |
| Feb 2011 | 10.50 |
| Apr 2011 | 13.50 |
| Jun 2011 | 11.50 |
| Aug 2011 | 12.50 |
| Oct 2011 | 11.50 |
| Nov 2011 | 11.57 |

Coin Melt Values Screen
[click image to enlarge](#)

This new, FREE online feature is the latest addition to NGC's powerful research suite. Visit NGCcoin.com/MeltValues and find:

- Bullion prices, updated every 15 minutes
- Historical melt values for a particular coin
- A melt value calculator
- Coin images and specifications such as composition

Select one of the tabs from the table to view melt values for commonly collected coins in that category. Click on the link for an individual coin to see it's historical melt value and to access the melt value calculator. Note: A coin's numismatic or collector value may be higher than its melt value.

To find the melt values of more coins visit the [NGC Coin Explorer](#), [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#), or [NGC World Coin Price Guide](#).

With the easy-to-use [Coin Melt Values](#) tool, you'll know what to pay — or what the market is willing to pay — before every purchase or sale. It's one more way NGC empowers you to collect with confidence.

The new [Coin Melt Values](#) tool is the latest addition to our online suite of research tools including [NGC Auction Central](#), [NGC Coin Explorer](#), the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#) and [NGC World Coin Price Guide](#) supplying everything the numismatic community needs in one place, solidifying the NGC website as the number one resource for research tools.

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NGC Certification Labels

Posted on 12/13/2011

New page features NGC's current certification labels, eligible coins and important information.

Check out a new page on the NGC website featuring our current [NGC Certification labels](#). Access to this page is located under the Coin Grading menu. This page displays each of the current NGC labels available to all submitters. Included is a brief description of the coins eligible for each label and any special submission instructions.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@ngccoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

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NGC Grading Coins On-site at FUN

Posted on 12/8/2011

NGC will offer on-site grading, including our Silver Dollar Tier, for Morgan and Peace Dollars. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at [FUN](#), in Orlando, FL on **Thursday, January 5 - Friday, January 6, 2012**. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Silver Dollar Tier | \$30 per coin |
|---------------------------|----------------------|

Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).

Coins must be in flips.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Gold Special | \$50 per coin |
|---------------------|----------------------|

Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Value WalkThrough | \$65 per coin |
|--------------------------|----------------------|

Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.

WalkThrough **\$100 per coin**

Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.

Expedite WalkThrough **\$150 per coin**

Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under.

Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.

High-Value WalkThrough **\$200 per coin**

Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.

Unlimited Value WalkThrough **\$500 per coin**

Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.

Show ReHolder **\$15 per coin**

A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.

NCS CrossOver **\$10 per coin**

A coin in an NCS holder is [NGC Details Graded](#).

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, Fla. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note: Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for on-site grading or regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series, 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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Expert Consults at FUN

Posted on 12/13/2011

Renowned numismatist Mark Salzberg will offer free consultations to collectors at the NGC tables during the FUN Show in Orlando on January 5 and 6, 2012.

The consultations will be one-on-one and will provide an opportunity to gain unique insight into a coin's grade and surface condition by having up to three examined by this leading numismatist. These evaluations are completely free, but space is very limited and we recommend that collectors come early to the NGC booth to reserve space in line (note date and time below).



Mark Salzberg

**Thursday, January 5,
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Friday, January 6,
10:30 a.m. to 11:30
a.m.**

Even just a few

minutes with Mark Salzberg can change a collector's perception of what factors are important in determining a coin's grade and what makes a coin special. The legendary coin grader and chairman of NGC is the industry's leading authority on professional coin certification, having personally graded nearly every significant collection and rarity to come to market in the past two decades.

By examining your coins, he'll help you understand why and how a coin's grade is determined. He can explain why a grade already assigned to a coin is correct (or

not!) or why a particular coin might be ineligible for certification. The goal of these consultations is to highlight what's most important about grading the series that you collect, to help you build the best collection possible.

Consultations are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Since time is limited, NGC requests that you have three coins pre-selected and ready for examination. Coins to be evaluated may be raw (uncertified) or certified and encapsulated. Please visit the NGC booth during the [FUN Show](#) in Orlando with questions about these consultations and other services offered during the convention.

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 United States

NGC Is Hiring

Posted on 11/8/2011

NGC is looking for full-time World coin specialists to join our team.

We are seeking professional specialists or graders with experience in vintage or modern World coins. Our graders work as a team, combining their expertise with proven processes to accurately evaluate, authenticate and grade submitted coins. Located in Sarasota, FL, we offer excellent benefits including medical and 401(k). Salary commensurate with experience.

If you feel you meet the qualifications, email your résumé to jobs@NGCcoin.com or fax your résumé to 941-360-2553.

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NGC Ancients: The Coinage of Bar Kokhba

Posted on 12/13/2011

This month, NGC Ancients examines the Bar Kokhba revolt (A.D. 132-135) and the resulting coinage.

The Bar Kokhba revolt (A.D. 132-135) was the last in a series of conflicts between Rome and its province of Judaea in the first and second centuries A.D. After the conclusion of the Jewish War (A.D. 66-70) in A.D. 70, relations only became more strained, with periodic eruptions of violence during the next sixty years. The final tipping point proved to be a visit to the province by the emperor Hadrian (A.D. 117-138) in the summer of A.D. 130.



When Hadrian visited the ruins of the Second Temple at Jerusalem (destroyed in A.D. 70, during the Jewish War) in A.D. 130, he decided to rebuild the structure. Unfortunately, it was to be rebuilt as a temple of Jupiter, which offended the

Jews. Additionally, he ordered that Jerusalem itself should be rebuilt and renamed Aelia Capitolina, which incorporated his family name. Finally, Hadrian banned the ritual practice of male circumcision, an act that he considered “body mutilation,” in accordance with his Hellenistic world view. All of these factors pushed Judaea towards the brink of revolt.

Out of this rapidly deteriorating situation rose a figure named Simon Bar Kokhba, a warrior who was recognized by some Jews as the messiah. He became the de facto military leader of the revolt that broke out in A.D. 132 – this movement persisted until A.D. 135, when the Jews were again defeated (this time, the Romans hoped, for good), an event that some scholars equate with the beginning of the Jewish diaspora. Bar Kokhba was presumably slaughtered along with his remaining followers in a bloodbath with few historical equals: it can be inferred that close to one million Jews died in the revolt, along with thousands of Roman

soldiers.

The coins of Bar Kokhba are among the most interesting Jewish coins produced in ancient times. This series represents a combination of artistic interest and historical significance. All of these coins are eagerly sought by collectors as both ancient coins and important relics of Jewish history.

Issues were struck in silver and bronze, and all coins were overstruck on contemporary circulating coinage, most often Roman Provincial issues and Roman Imperial silver denarii. A large billon (debased silver) coin, called a “sela,” was overstruck on Roman Provincial tetradrachms. The smaller precious metal coin, called a “zuz,” was most often overstruck on Roman Imperial denarii, thus accounting for their greater purity of silver. Bronze coins were struck on many different host types, so the four different denominations were distinguished by their designs.

This coin, a particularly fine example of a sela, is undated, and thus attributed to the third year (A.D. 134/5) of the revolt. It features on the obverse the façade of the Temple of Jerusalem (the Ark of the Covenant can be seen, inside)



and on the reverse, the lulav and etrog, along with an inscription. The lulav, a bound bundle of twigs and foliage, and the etrog (a citrus fruit), were both ceremonial items.

The reverse legend of this sela, inscribed in Paleo-Hebrew, translates to “For the Freedom of Jerusalem.” It is extremely interesting because it follows the Roman practice of using inscriptions as propaganda. This was just one of several inscriptions that Bar Kokhba employed on his coinage to rally support for the revolt. The dated issues (years one and two) have inscriptions to the effect of “Year one of the redemption of Israel” and “Year two of the freedom of Israel,” and so on.

The other silver issue of Bar Kokhba was the zuz, sometimes referred to as a denarius (usually the host coin for these pieces). There were two different obverse types: a grape cluster and an olive wreath. Patriotic inscriptions are found either surrounding the grapes or inside the wreath. Reverse types featured a palm branch, a one-handled jug, a pair of trumpets, or one of two types of lyres (stringed instruments).

This coin happens to be an exceptional example; it is dated to the second year of the revolt (A.D. 133/4) by its inscription, which reads, “Year two of the freedom of



Israel.” The coin features the olive wreath/one-handled jug design, and is so well struck that no traces of its undertype remain.

For purposes of comparison, this zuz has a prominent undertype. The coin was struck with the grape cluster/trumpets during year three of the revolt, but if one examines it closely, traces of the host



coin’s design elements are clearly visible. Beneath the grape cluster, a camel can be seen, and some of the original Latin inscription remains. Likewise, on the reverse the trumpets are struck over faint traces of a portrait and another Latin inscription. The host coin was a denarius of the Emperor Trajan (A.D. 98-117) but was used by Bar Kokhba for the rebellion two decades or more after it was issued.



Bronze coins were issued in four denominations: one large, two medium types, and one small unit. The largest (c. 29-33mm), struck for only the first two years of the revolt, features on the obverse a wreath, and on the reverse a two-handled jug, with patriotic

inscriptions on both sides. This coin is quite rare and examples such as this piece, struck during year one (A.D. 132/3) of the revolt, command strong prices at auction.

Medium bronzes feature two obverse/reverse types: the first (c. 19-23mm) displays a palm branch within a wreath on the obverse and a lyre on the reverse, and the second (c. 23-27 mm) has a grape leaf on the obverse and a palm tree on the reverse. The issue with the lyre reverse is by far the scarcer of the two, and is illustrated here. This particular example dates to year one of the revolt.



Small bronzes (c. 17-19mm) are distinguished by thick, compact planchets and a type that shows on the obverse a palm tree and on the reverse a hanging cluster of grapes. These were struck during all three years of the revolt.

This coin, struck in the first year of the revolt, is an excellent example of perhaps the most readily obtainable of all Bar Kokhba

coins.

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.

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Counterfeit Detection: Another 1911-D Quarter Eagle

Posted on 12/13/2011

We received another altered 1911-D Quarter Eagle after last month's newsletter. Read about how this one differed from the one featured in November's article.

Less than a week after the November NGC eNewsletter was sent out we received another altered 1911-D quarter eagle. [Last month's](#) article featured a chased mintmark 1911-D \$2.50, which had a "D" carved out of the coin's field. This piece, on the other hand, is an altered date. Both fakes began as legitimate Indian Head quarter eagles: the chased mintmark was a Philadelphia 1911, while the altered date was a 1914-D.



Counterfeit 1911-D Quarter Eagle
click image to enlarge

Alterations can be particularly deceptive because they began as legitimate pieces and, for the most part, have the same look and feel of an authentic coin. The chased mintmark was originally a Philadelphia Mint 1911, while the altered date was a 1914-D. This altered date is interesting and highly unusual because the entire date was effaced and then carved into the surface. There are a number of hairline scratches visible in the fields from the counterfeiter taking a filing tool to

the coin. The intent was to remove the date, but in the process some of the other details, including the designer's initials and the headdress feathers, were weakened.

Although the alteration was fairly well done, if you compare this piece to a legitimate 1911-D you will notice that all of the digits are a little off. A genuine 1911-D should have the final two 1's in the date virtually parallel, and they should be the exact same size. On this altered date, each of the three 1's has a different size and shape, and the final digit is slanted to the right.



After close study it was clear that this piece was originally a 1914-D. A lazy counterfeiter would have simply removed part of the 4 to form a 1, but this would have left a significant gap between the second and third 1's. By carefully carving the entire date, the counterfeiter could come much closer to the correct spacing. This, however, caused significant scratches across the obverse.

This coin has other problems, including damage on the obverse and reverse, which the counterfeiter probably hoped would take the focus away from the altered date. (For more on this subject, see "Look Here, Not There" in the November 2011 issue of the ANA's *The Numismatist*.) Nonetheless, even a damaged 1911-D quarter eagle would be worth hundreds of dollars. Collectors should always look closely at the date and mintmark on key date coins and, if there is any doubt, compare to an authentic example.

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 United States 

USA Coin Album: Short and Sweet, Part Two

Posted on 12/13/2011

This month David continues his discussion of coins that were mass produced for just a short period of time.

Last month I began a survey of United States coin types that are particularly appealing yet were terminated all too quickly in favor of lesser replacements. Christian Gobrecht's handsome Seated Liberty silver dollar of 1836 lacked stars on its obverse, and this furnished it with a charming cameo appearance. Not content to leave well enough alone, the Mint added 13 stars to the 1838-39 issues to conform with earlier coin types dating back to the 1790s. The Seated Liberty dime and half dime debuted in 1837 sans stars, but these coins were likewise retrofitted with an arc of obverse stars early in 1838. Only the 1837 and 1838-O issues were produced in the original format, and these coins are especially prized by type collectors.



Gobrecht's coins were further altered midway through 1840, when artist Robert Ball Hughes was contracted to produce a highly modified interpretation of the Seated Liberty. The most obvious change was the addition of a fold of drapery at Liberty's left elbow, but a close comparison of both subtypes reveals a nearly complete redesign. In addition to rendering Liberty fat and lumpy, the new obverse model led to decades of poor strikes in which Liberty's head was indistinct and portions of the reverse wreath were likewise incomplete. This revised obverse was applied in 1840 to all of the Seated Liberty denominations aside from the half dollar (for some reason this latter coin, though having drapery added at Liberty's elbow midway through 1839, remained largely as Gobrecht modeled it right through the end of production in 1891). The half dime and dime received a

heavier style of wreath concurrent with the obverse changes. This, too, was far from an improvement, only adding to the striking deficiencies described above.

One of the most unfortunate alterations to United States coinage was the Mint's bungling of Hermon MacNeil's quarter dollar design of 1916. The coin as it debuted that year was actually the Mint's own interpretation of the design and not the models submitted by MacNeil. The 1916 issue was struck from a master hub not properly reproduced through mechanical reduction, with the result that several features were indistinct on the coins. The Mint's engraving department sharpened these features with 1917's coinage, but the artist still objected. Corrective action was taken midway through 1917, resulting in an extremely modified version of the Standing Liberty quarter dollar which was closer to the MacNeil's models but which also struck up quite poorly. In addition, the new dies wore out more quickly than those of the original issue, leaving most Type 2 coins rather blurry. In retrospect, it's clear that the 1917 Type 1 quarters were quite handsome and should have been left as they were.

Among the most familiar and readily collectable of early United States coins are the charming Capped Bust half dollars of 1807-36, of which millions were coined annually. Perhaps because of its high production and importance, this denomination was the last to be upgraded with a reeded edge applied through use of a close collar, a technology adapted to the other silver coins several years earlier. Christian Gobrecht used this transition to also create a new interpretation of the old John Reich design, and the result was one of the most appealing of United States issues. The reeded edge version of the Capped Bust half dollar was in production for just a few years, 1836-39, before being replaced by the same artist's Seated Liberty type. In its brief lifetime, however, it was the epitome of this design at its finest.

This coin's replacement, as noted above, was the Seated Liberty half dollar. The early issues of 1839-42 featured small lettering on the reverse that did not detract from the main device of a shield-bearing eagle. Early in 1842, however, the legends were made large and quite heavy, a move mimicked on the copper and gold issues, as well. Whatever the reason for doing this, it gave the coins a somewhat crowded appearance and was in no way an aesthetic improvement. The heaviness of this lettering was reduced a bit in stages, starting in 1858 and continuing with the 1866 debut of halves bearing the motto IN GOD WE TRUST, but the damage had already been done.

Though the Walking Liberty half dollar was left relatively untouched by the Mint's engraving department, it too suffered from some minor tinkering. All three of the new silver coins debuting in 1916 were modeled by their submitting artists with

rough, textured fields, a style then in vogue among sculptors. Even in the pattern stage, however, engraver Charles Barber polished out these fields to make them smooth, a move which alarmed dime and half dollar artist Adolph Weinman in particular. The 1916 coins as issued did have their textured fields restored, but it was not long before these were replaced with the more conventional treatment. During the course of 1917's production, the Mint made subtle changes to the dime and half dollar which, among other things, furnished them with smooth, reflective fields. The same thing happened to MacNeil's quarter dollar in its transition from Type 1 to Type 2, but the overall changes were so obvious that the smoothing of the fields went barely noticed.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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United States

NumisMedia Market Report: Rare Coins Coming of Age

Posted on 12/13/2011

The year 2011 should go down in history as one of the most significant in numismatics.

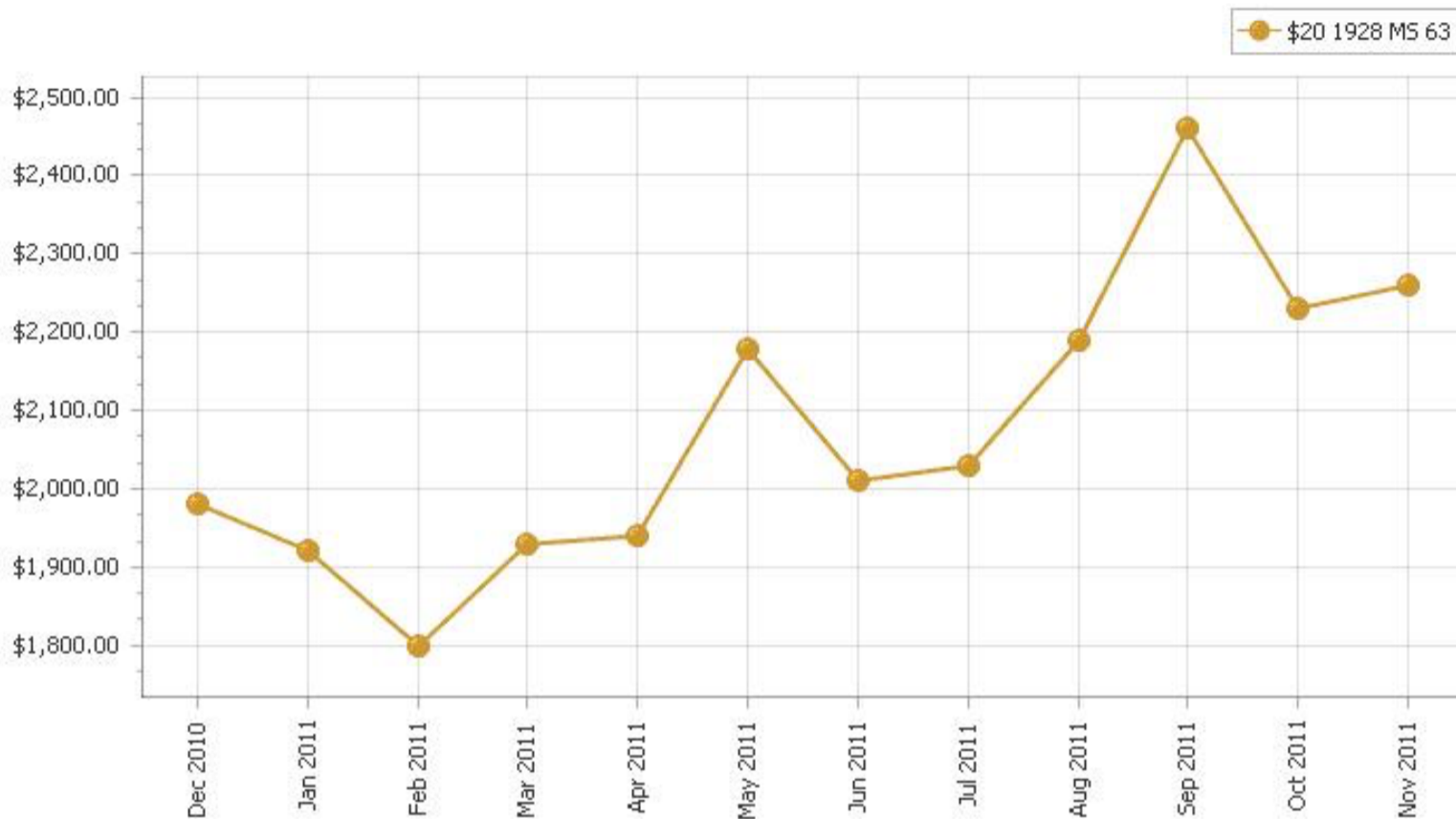
This conclusion can be drawn from two important issues. One, the metals showed the strength that experts have been predicting for many years. Of course, it took the downfall of World economies to finally expose this strength. The year began with Gold at \$1,388.50 in early January. During the year it bounced over \$1,900 twice in day trading but the highest close was \$1,895. Currently, it is \$1,710, a healthy increase of 23% for the year. Silver began the year at \$30.67 with experts convinced that it would top \$50 and beyond. The highest close was in April at \$48.70 but soon fell back to under \$40 per ounce. Recently Silver has traded around \$31 to \$34.50 with a current price of \$32. Experts are still committed to Silver advancing well beyond the high for the year.

Platinum wound up taking a backseat to both Gold and Silver, falling below where it started the year. In early January it was \$1,753 and rose as high as \$1,887. But with buyers concentrating on Gold and Silver, Platinum quickly fell under the price of Gold and has been largely ignored by investors. Currently Platinum is trading at \$1,538, down about 12% for the year. While the metals fluctuated throughout the year, all the Modern coins were very active as collectors and investors scurried to buy coins ahead of the rising markets.

The rise of Gold throughout the year gave added importance to Classic Gold coins. Buyers were constantly in and out of the market trying to make profits with the ups and downs of the precious metal. At the beginning of the year the FMV for the common \$20 Gold Liberty was \$2,470 in MS 63. The FMV reached \$2,750 in September before premiums began to shrink. This month the FMV is \$2,410. This is down \$60 compared to the January FMV although Gold is higher by \$321.50. This may sound negative to some, but many believe Gold is still headed to higher

levels. When you can buy the older collectible U.S. Gold coins for 52% less premium today, many investors would rank this as a wonderful opportunity.

The following chart shows the \$20 Saint in MS 63 with a comparison of January to today. As you can see, the January FMV was \$1,920 while today it is \$2,260. This is an increase of 18%, while Gold increased 23%. Again, the premium is lower over the value of Gold than it was in January. Also, for the same grade the better value appears to be the Saint over the Liberty in the M S63 grade.



The second issue that makes 2011 significant is the fact that worldwide investors have accepted numismatics as one of the preeminent techniques for investing in today's money markets. This has been building for several years but it is now readily reported by the mainstream media. Ten years ago, as an industry, we could not get a positive article relating to numismatics in any of the national publications. Today, numismatics is recognized as one of the top investment programs available to investors. However, it is not an easy task as it takes time and energy to study the overall opportunities and judge which coins are most likely to increase in the upcoming years. With all the statistics available today, anybody can track the FMV of specific coins and compare prior years to current FMV prices. Advanced collectors and investors can also compare the number of coins certified in various grades and determine how many could be available at any given time. NumisMedia tracks the aspirations of many well-known collectors.

Eventually, if a collection is significant enough, it can be the focus of a major

auction house sale. Heritage Auctions is just one of the few top coin companies that makes effective and vibrant use of their Internet mailing list to sell coins that come from well managed collections. One such collection will be available at the FUN Show in early January. Dr. & Mrs. Steven Duckor will offer a selection of the most important dates in the Saint Gaudens series. Not only are they the rarest of the rare, they are mostly the highest grades in the series. The Duckor's are known for identifying and selecting coins with premium eye appeal. The cream of these highlights include: 1927 S MS 67, 1925 S MS 66, 1924 D MS 66, and 1921 MS 66.

This article is a guest article written by:



The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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United States





From the NGC Archives: 1879 Proof Goloid Pattern Dollar J- 1626, P-1822

Posted on 12/13/2011

Dr. Wheeler W. Hubbell was the deviser of goloid, an alloy of gold, silver and copper which contained the first two metals in proportion to their market values at the time.

Unfortunately, the resulting alloy was visually indistinguishable from ordinary silver, and the Mints experiments with it proved fruitless.



Many delightful pattern designs survive from this program, and the coin presented here is among the most popular. From dies by William Barber, this amazing gem features a superb strike, brilliant, pristine fields and attractive toning of gold and sea green. The statistics inscribed on its reverse provide the formula for goloid: 15.3 parts gold, 236.7 parts silver and 28 parts copper for a total mass of 14 grams. Its metric weight was another fascination of Congress and the Mint at that time.

Are you interested in Pattern Coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read more.

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United States

World Coins: The Coinage of the White Rajahs of Sarawak: Part 3

Posted on 12/8/2011

Jay Turner continues his discussion of the coinage of Sarawak in the last of a multi-part series.

When Rajah Charles Johnson Brooke died in 1917, succession passed to his son Charles Vyner Brooke who became the third and final White Rajah of Sarawak. Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke would face many challenges during his reign, but he would also leave a lasting mark on both the history and coinage of Sarawak.

Charles Vyner Brooke was born in England, the son of Rajah Charles Johnson Brooke and eventually relocated to Sarawak after his education in England. When he arrived in Sarawak, he entered public service as a personal assistant to his father. Charles moved through the ranks of Sarawak government serving as a district officer, President of the Law Courts and Vice-President of the Supreme and General Councils. He entered the British Army and served during World War I as a member of the anti-aircraft defense.

After his father's death in 1918, Charles Vyner Brooke became Rajah of Sarawak. Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke took over Sarawak during an economic boom that was driven by the rubber and oil industries. Because of these prosperous economic conditions he was able to modernize the country's public service institutions and penal code, which was based on the British-India system. Charles Vyner gained popularity with a hands-off approach to government and a tolerance for indigenous traditions, with the exception of headhunting (he also banned Christian Missionaries). As Rajah, he limited his own power and signed a new constitution in exchange for £200,000 in 1941.

Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke and his family were in Sydney, Australia when Japan invaded Sarawak in 1941. He was forced to remain in Australia for the duration of the war as Japan held Sarawak until 1945. Charles Vyner Brooke was finally able

to return to Sarawak on April 15, 1946, where he resumed the title of Rajah. Sarawak had been ravaged by war and needed the finances to accomplish major reconstruction. Charles, now 72 and with a healthy pension offer from the British Government, ceded Sarawak to the British Government on July 1, 1946, as a crown colony. This event marked the end of the “White Rajah” dynasty.

The coinage of Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke continued the tradition set by his father and his father’s uncle. The coins feature his portrait and the title “C.V. Brooke Rajah” so as not to be confused with the coinage of his father. The first series of coins issued by Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke was in 1920. These included a 5 cent struck in .500 fine silver, a 10 cent composed of .800 fine silver and a 20 cent composed of .800 fine silver, all dated 1920.



Sarawak 1920 Cent
Click image to enlarge.

Due to the scarcity of silver after the war, copper-nickel issues were authorized in 1921. These issues include a 1920 cent coin, 1920 and 1927 5 cent coins, and 1920, 1927 and 1934 10 cent coins. Silver continued to be used in the production of 20 and 50 cent pieces in 1927, but at a .500 fine standard.



Sarawak 1927 20 Cent
Click image to enlarge.



Sarawak 1927 50 Cent
Click image to enlarge.

A new bronze cent was introduced in 1927 and pieces were dated 1927, 1929, 1930, 1937 and 1941. The Royal Mint's annual report notes the striking of a 1942-dated piece at the Birmingham Mint; however, no pieces are known to exist.



Sarawak 1941 Cent
Click image to enlarge.

With the Japanese occupation of Sarawak, any silver coinage seized was melted. This included pieces issued under Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke. The Silver 1920-H 5 cents, 10 cents and 20 cents, as well as the 1927-H 20 cents and 50 cents, had a low survival rate, and thus are especially scarce in high grade today.

Besides the silver, another numismatic casualty of World War II was the 1941-H bronze cent. It is believed that the ship transporting the mintage of these coins to Sarawak for use in commerce was sunk by the Japanese during World War II. Thus, it is a very scarce coin today.

While the coinage of Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke is easier to collect than that of his predecessors due to the survival rate of the base metal coins, the scarcity of some issues hinders most numismatists from obtaining a complete collection. The White Rajahs of Sarawak ruled for just over one hundred years before Charles Vyner Brooke handed control of Sarawak to the British Crown. In 1952, the Board of Commissioners of Currency Malaya and British Borneo came into being. In

1953 coins featuring Queen Elizabeth under Malay and North Borneo were issued and the old coinage withdrawn from circulation in Sarawak. Today Sarawak uses the coinage of Malaysia, as it is a state within that nation. Numismatics gives history life by providing a moment in time, frozen in metal. For one hundred years, the legacy of Sarawak was reflected in the portraits of the White Rajahs that ruled it.

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United States

The Year in Modern Coins, Looking Back at 2011

Posted on 12/18/2011

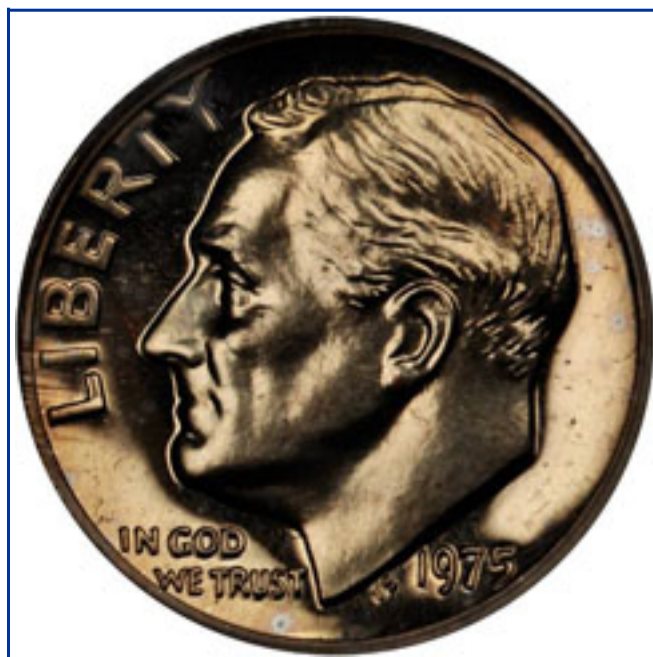
Scott Schechter reviews new discoveries and new issues of modern US coinage in 2011.

2011 has been a very significant year for modern US coinage. A handful of new discoveries and new issues make that statement easy to prove. Here we'll briefly discuss these coins and consider how they will rank relative to the coins included in the book *100 Greatest Modern U.S. Coins*, which was released early in 2011.

One of the stated goals of [100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins](#), the book that I co-authored with Jeff Garrett, was to stimulate discussion and interest in recently released US coinage issues, 1964 to date. We believe that the coins included in the book are of seminal importance to the area of modern coin collecting, yet new information changes our understanding of the coins that constitute the *100 Greatest*. The lists looks different at the end of 2011 than it did at the beginning.

Proof 1975 No S Dime

Throughout the years, a handful of proof coins have been struck at San Francisco with the S mintmark omitted in error. All of them appear on the list of *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins*, with the 1968 No S Roosevelt Dime garnering the number 3 spot. The 1975 dime, although first discovered and reported in 1977, had fallen back into the realm of "unconfirmed" by the time the *100 Greatest* was published. Only two examples had been reported and



neither had surfaced publicly since 1978, well over 30 years ago. We did mention

this coin in the book, of course, during the discussion of the 1970 No S Roosevelt Dime (number 54): “If it does exist, the 1975 No-S dime is one of the great rarities of the 20th century and will assume a vaunted position on the list of *100 Greatest Modern U.S. Coins*—likely the number one spot. But until it’s confirmed, it remains off the list.”

Well, in 2011, these two coins re-surfaced and we learned their full history. Both coins were discovered in the late 1970s by a single collector in California. After his discovery was confirmed, he sold both examples to dealer Fred Vollmer in separate transactions. Vollmer then placed them with two collectors in 1980. For 31 years, both coins, the only examples to ever come to light, have remained in their respective collections.

When an example at last sold at public auction in Stack’s-Bowers’ sale on August 18, 2011, it realized \$349,600. As previously stated, it certainly deserves a lofty spot on the list of *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins*.

2007 Frosted Freedom Proof Platinum Eagles

Each year the Mint changes the reverse design of the proof Platinum Eagles. In 2007, the design featured an eagle with outstretched wings behind a shield. Draped across the top of the shield is a banner inscribed with the word FREEDOM. On normal issue pieces, the word appears in mirror-finish, contrasting sharply with the frosted banner. In early 2011, a small number of preproduction strikes were made showing the entire design frosted including the word FREEDOM, thus giving this variety its name.

Mint officials said they had chosen to modify the coin’s design to make the word more readable. A small number of these prototype coins were inadvertently released to collectors. The total number of coins said to be available is as follows: \$100 (1 ounce), 12 coins; \$50 (1/2 ounce), 21 coins; \$25 (1/4 ounce), 21 coins; \$10 (1/10 ounce), none produced.

Because Platinum Eagles don’t enjoy the same popularity as some other series of modern coins, like Silver Eagles, and because the variety is a small variation on a one-year



design type, this coin will likely never earn the high ranking that its rarity suggests it deserves. Based on those numbers alone, it should be a top 10 coin, but likely it will settle someplace higher. There is one coin that does appear on the list that is similar to these coins: the Cheerios Sacagawea Dollar (number 14). This is also technically a prototype coin that was released publicly.

2010-P Light Finish Grand Canyon 5-Ounce Silver Quarter

The legislation that authorized the America the Beautiful Quarters, the current circulating quarter dollars, included an unusual provision. Three inch versions of each coin, struck in five ounces of pure silver, were also to be produced. The complexity of creating this very novel coin meant that their production was much delayed. The fourth issue made for collectors, the 2010 Grand Canyon issue, was actually released in July 2011.



Each of these coins was issued in a bullion version, without mintmark, and a specimen version for collectors was also made with P mintmark for Philadelphia. For each coin in the series, 27,000 pieces were produced. The specimen versions of these coins have a heavy matte or granular finish created by a relatively enigmatic mint process called vapor blasting. Variations in the blasting media or the blasting equipment settings caused the finishes of these coins to vary. In contrast to possessing a heavy granular surface, some examples could be seen with a soft satin finish, dubbed LIGHT FINISH.

It is estimated that a quarter of the mintage exhibits this light finish, around 7,000 pieces — so it's a scarce item. Since the initial discovery, light finish examples of earlier issues have also been found. As the most widely available piece, the Grand Canyon coin is most apt to be collected in both formats, and likely will garner a spot on the top 100 list. There are no real comparables, as this is the first oversize coinage issues released by the US. Also, the finish variation makes this a rather atypical variety as well. We expect it to rank in the bottom quartile of a

future compilation of the *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins*.

Interestingly, the Mint quickly acknowledged these finish variations as a shortcoming of its equipment. They announced in late July 2011 that new equipment was being installed to ensure greater consistency in these coin's finishes. Indeed, less variation was seen in the surface finish of the Mount Hood coin released a month after the Grand Canyon issue.

25th Anniversary Silver Eagles

These coins were coveted from the start. The set of five Silver Eagles went on sale at noon on October 27, 2011. Before 5:00 pm they were sold out. What makes the set truly special is that it contains two exclusive pieces, both with mintages limited to 100,000 pieces.

First, is a reverse proof Silver Eagle minted in Philadelphia, similar to the 2006 reverse proof struck to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the series. Reverse proofs have a “backwards” finish with mirrored design elements and frosted fields. Since this is seldom used on US coins, it is an unusual feature that makes these coins very popular with collectors. The 2006 issue is ranked number 11 on the list of *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins* but it has a mintage of 250,000 pieces, much larger than the 2011 issue. Over time, the 2011-P Reverse Proof Silver Eagle will likely be seen as a more desirable coin and displace the 2006 issue.

Second, is the 2011-S Silver Eagle. It is the first and only uncirculated finish Silver Eagle to bear the “S” mintmark for San Francisco. While bullion issue Silver Eagles have been produced in San Francisco in the past, these were always issued without mintmark. So this coin is the only one of its type and it is limited to just 100,000 pieces.

The 2011-S Silver Eagle is similar in some respects to the Proof 1995-W Silver Eagle, struck to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Silver Eagle. The 1995-W's mintage is very limited at just 30,125 pieces, earning it the rank of number 4 on the list. Another similar coin is the Uncirculated 2006-W Silver Eagle. It was the first uncirculated finish Silver Eagle issued with a mintmark and only 466,573 were produced; it's number 64 on the list. This coin will certainly fall somewhere between the two on a future list of *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins*.

These are just a few of the discoveries and issues that shaped the year in modern coins. While new developments were inevitable, the significance and number of these events could not have been predicted. Jeff Garrett and I are pleased to contribute to this ongoing dialogue surrounding modern coinage. We hope that

the *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins* assists in providing context to future chapters of this ever unfolding story.

Images courtesy Stack's Bowers Galleries and Collectors Society.

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Award-Winning Registry Collector Showcases Set Online

Posted on 12/13/2011

A combination of passion and obsession drove Barry Chappell to collect Proof Morgan Dollars. Now he shares his award-winning collection on his website.



Proof Morgan Dollar collector Barry Chappell is already well-known to collectors of the popular series. He was awarded Best Classic Set for his Proof Morgan Dollars in 2009 and has held the top spot in the NGC Registry Proof Morgan Dollar category for three years running. Each year, he continues to add new pieces to his virtually unimprovable set. One of Chappell's motivations to build the finest Morgan Dollar set was to create something that others would enjoy seeing. Although his set has been displayed at conventions, Chappell is now broadening its reach by launching a website devoted to it, chappellcollection.com.

Only seldom do collectors share their motivations and struggles. Chappell, who has worked in the collectibles field for over 20 years, knows the collectors' mindset and understands that this aspect of his collecting experience is worth sharing as well. On his site, he describes his commitment to completing his set as

a “combination of passion and obsession with Proof Morgan Dollars.” But at the same time, it was also the source of the most joy of all his coin-related projects.

Chappell’s story can be seen on his website, chappellcollection.com, and his full collection can be found in the [NGC Registry](#).

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The Franklin Mint Offers Exclusive September 11th Collectible

Posted on 12/13/2011

These limited-edition sets include an NGC-certified 9-11 Silver Proof Medal and a genuine out-of-issue "Heroes" first-class US postage stamp.

The Franklin Mint has teamed with renowned photojournalist Thomas E. Franklin to create a limited edition offering. Franklin captured the iconic photograph of three FDNY firemen raising a US flag at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001. His image was featured on a 2002 US Postage Stamp called "Heroes."



The Franklin Mint has paired the 2011 September 11 National Medal with a certificate hand-signed by Thomas Franklin. It features the now out-of-issue

Heroes postage stamp, and Franklin's signature crosses over from certificate onto the stamp. Only 2,011 certificates have been produced. The 2011 September 11 National Medals offered with this certificate were struck at the West Point Mint and contain one ounce of fine silver. Each has been certified by NGC and examples grading both Proof-69 and Proof-70 are available. A portion of the sales proceeds will be donated to both the FDNY Foundation and the 9-11 National Memorial Fund.

For more information and to qualify for free holiday shipping visit the Franklin Mint's website by clicking on the following links for the [Proof 69 Certified Medal](#) or the [Proof 70 Certified Medal](#).

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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